

**News Release**  
**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*District of Rhode Island*

**May 13, 2004**

**Westerly man admits trafficking in crack cocaine**

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**235 grams of crack were buried in defendant's home**

**Ryan Bilby**, of Westerly, has pleaded guilty to a federal crack cocaine trafficking charge. Bilby admitted that he had 235 grams of crack cocaine buried in his home in February when Westerly Police arrived with a state arrest warrant.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the guilty plea, which Bilby entered yesterday before Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres in U.S. District Court, Providence. Bilby, 23, of 53 North Woody Hill Road, Bradford, is detained pending sentencing, which is scheduled for July 12.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen G. Dambruch said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that, on February 2, Westerly Police went to Bilby's home to execute a state arrest warrant charging Bilby with two counts of delivering cocaine. After police arrested Bilby and advised him of his rights, he gave them consent to search his home.

Bilby directed the officers to an enclosed area with a dirt floor and told police that cocaine was buried there. With officers standing by, Bilby dug two holes in the dirt floor and removed two bags that contained what later proved to be 235.64 grams of crack

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cocaine. Bilby later admitted to detectives that he had been dealing cocaine for about 2 & ½ years.

Bilby pleaded guilty to one count of possessing with intent to distribute in excess of fifty grams of cocaine base. The statutory maximum penalty is life imprisonment and a \$4,000,000 fine, with a minimum sentence of ten years imprisonment. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that rely on such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

**Westerly Police** conducted the investigation, with assistance from the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Dambruch is prosecuting the case.

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